

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 IO-13
OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-03 SAA-01 SES-03 HA-05 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 A-01
SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 /112 W
-----094851 271438Z /41

O P 271335Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8929
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 4259

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, LE
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: JULY 27, 1600 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 4216 (DTG 260952Z JUL 78)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE SITUATION HAS TAKEN A TURN SLIGHTLY
FOR THE BETTER AS RELATIVE CALM PREVAILS IN HADATH. THE
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MARONITE PATRIARCH, A MODERATE, DECLARED THAT NOTHING CAN
JUSTIFY THE BOMBARDMENT OF PEACEFUL NEIGHBORHOODS. SYRIAN
ADF FORCES REPORTEDLY OCCUPIED HAMAT AIRFIELD. PRIME
MINISTER SALIM AL-HOSS SAID THE ARMY WOULD GO SOUTH WITHIN
A MATTER OF DAYS. END SUMMARY.

2. RELATIVE CALM IN HADATH.

A. RELATIVE CALM HAS PREVAILED IN HADATH SINCE THE HEAVY SHELLING STOPPED AT ABOUT 0800 HOURS LOCAL ON JULY 26. SCATTERED SMALL ARMS FIRE AND EXPLOSIONS CONTINUE, HOWEVER. L'ORIENT LE JOUR REPORTED ON JULY 27 THAT "AFTER THREE DREADFUL NIGHTS ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY, HADATH IS BANDAGING ITS WOUNDS AND COUNTING ITS DEAD. THERE ARE 30 DEAD AND 56 SERIOUSLY WOUNDED. THE PLACE IS STILL VIRTUALLY IN A STAGE OF SEIGE." BAABDA DEPUTY PIERRE DAKKASH SENT AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT SARKIS, ASKING HIM TO END THE "MEDICAL SEIGE" OF HADATH AND SEND MEDICINES TO THE PEOPLE THERE, "ESPECIALLY FOR THE TREATMENT OF RABIES." DAKKASH EXPLAINED THAT RATS HAD BITTEN MANY OF THE RESIDENTS, WHO HAD BEEN SPENDING THEIR NIGHTS IN UNDERGROUND SHELTERS. MILITIA CONTACTS OF DATT SAID AT 1500 HOURS THAT SITUATION APPEARED TO BE IMPROVING IN HADATH AND THAT DANY CHAMOUN HAD JUST COMPLETED VISIT TO VILLAGE.

B. A COMMUNIQUE OF THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCE ISSUED THE NIGHT OF JULY 26 SAID THAT THE ADF AND INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES HAD WORKED OUT SECURITY MEASURES TO STABILIZE THE SITUATION. ACCORDING TO REPORTS IN THE PRESS ON JULY 27, LEBANESE GENDARMES ARE TO MOVE INTO HADATH TO ACT AS A BUFFER BETWEEN THE SYRIAN FORCES AND MILITIA. POLICEMEN WERE ALSO REPORTEDLY TO BEGIN PATROLS IN DOWNTOWN BEIRUT, AIN AR-RUMMANEH AND SHIAH. (RELIABLE DATT SOURCES REPORT THAT ISF POLICE HAVE TAKEN OVER

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AT LEAST ONE CHECKPOINT FROM MILITIA IN ASHRAFIYAH AS OF 1200 HOURS, JULY 27.)

3. STATEMENTS BY CHRISTIAN LEADERS.

A. MARONITE PATRIARCH ANTONIOS KHORAICHE, A MODERATE, DECLARED: "WHATEVER THE REALITY, WE BELIEVE THAT NOTHING, NOTHING CAN JUSTIFY THE PLANNED BOMBARDMENT OF PEACEFUL NEIGHBORHOODS, PLACES OF WORSHIP, HOSPITALS AND SCHOOLS. WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND THIS FORM OF HORROR NOR THE FACT THAT NO RESPONSIBLE PERSONS SUCCEEDED IN STOPPING IT."

B. NLP SECRETARY GENERAL DORY CHAMOUN DECLARED THAT MR. SARKIS HAD 24 HOURS TO EXPLAIN TO THE PUBLIC WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

4. SYRIANS IN HAMAT. ACCORDING TO A DATT SOURCE, SYRIANS ADF UNITS TOOK CONTROL OF HAMAT AIRFIELD NEAR CHEKKA ON JULY 26. THIS CAUSED SOME TENSION WITH PHALANGE UNITS IN BYBLOS AND BATROUN, BUT NO FIGHTING WAS REPORTED.

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-----094918 271442Z /41

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5. ARMY REPORTEDLY TO GO SOUTH.

PRIME MINISTER SALIM AL-HOSS TOLD THE PRESS JULY 26 THAT
THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE LEBANESE ARMY TO SOUTH LEBANON WOULD
NOT BE DELAYED BY THE SECURITY SITUATION IN HADATH. "THE
DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN." "THE ARMY WILL BE DEPLOYED IN THE
SOUTH VERY SOON - WITHIN DAYS."

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B. THE LEFTIST NATIONAL MOVEMENT OPPOSES DEPLOYMENT

SOUTH. REUTERS ON JULY 26, FOR EXAMPLY, REPORTED THAT THE LEBANESE ARAB ARMY HAD SET UP FOUR CHECK POINTS IN SOUTH LEBANON TO BLOCK THE PROPOSED DEPLOYMENT. ABOUT 29 SOLDIERS MANNED EACH CHECKPOINT SUPPORTED BY ARTILLERY AND ARMORED VEHICLES, REUTERS SAID. IT QUOTED AN UNNAMED OFFICER AT ONE OF THE CHECKPOINTS AS SAYING THAT "A DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN NOT TO PERMIT THE CONFESSIONAL ARMY TO ENTER SOUTH LEBANON."

C. CONSERVATIVE SUNNIS AND SHI'AS STRONGLY SUPPORT DEPLOYMENT OF THE ARMY SOUTH. ISLAMIC COUNCIL PRESIDENT CHAFIC WAZZAN, DEPUTY RASHID SOLH, DEPUTY HUSSEIN MANSOUR AND DEPUTY ADEL OSSEIRAN ISSUED STATEMENTS ON JULY 26 INSISTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT SEND THE ARMY SOUTH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. ACCORDING TO AN NAHAR, THE PHALANGE AND NLP ARE NOW PREPARED TO REDUCE TENSION, AND PHALANGE LEADER PIERRE GEMAYEL HAS PROMISED TO WITHDRAW HIS MILITIAMEN FROM THE DOWNTOWN AREA TO ALLOW LEBANESE POLICEMEN TO ENTER THERE. THE PHALANGE PAPER AL AMAL REPORTED THAT BOTH PIERRE GEMAYEL AND NLP LEADER CAMILLE CHAMOUN WERE GRATIFIED BY THE SESSATION OF THE SHELLING IN HADATH. PARKER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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